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SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS

Review of publications by the Department of Public Information

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993, the General Assembly requested "the management of the Department of Public Information to review the Department's publications and proposals for publications to ensure that all publications fulfil an identifiable need, that they do not duplicate other publications inside or outside the United Nations system, and that they are produced in a cost-effective manner, and report to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth substantive session".

2. The present report is submitted to the Committee on Information in response to that request. It is intended also to complement the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on continuous and major publications of the Department for Public Information. 1/ In this regard, the present report gives particular consideration to the non-recurrent publications produced by the Department of Public Information. A list of the publications issued in 1993 is contained in the annex to the present document.

3. The publications released by the Department, both recurrent and non-recurrent, deal with specific and topical issues of major concern to the international community. They are produced and distributed in response to the mandates established by the General Assembly, as well as to new priorities set by Member States and the Secretary-General. The purpose of these publications is:

(a) The promotion of major issues before the Organization;

(b) The creation of awareness of, and support for, important United Nations conferences and events;

(c) The fostering of an informed understanding of United Nations peace-keeping and other political missions.

4. The criteria applied by the management of the Department of Public Information for the production of recurrent and non-recurrent publications are designed to ensure that they, inter alia:

(a) Promote the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

(b) Generate public support for the achievement of the respective programme objectives;

(c) Respond in a timely manner to an identified demand from target audiences.

5. In this connection, it should be borne in mind that "the Department of Public Information is responsible for the creation and preparation of materials designed to provide the media and the general public with current information about the United Nations and its objectives and activities". 2/ According to reports from the respective project managers, as well as from the United Nations information centres and other field offices, the publications issued by the Department have in many instances contributed significantly to generating media coverage of United Nations activities and events and are considered by media organizations and others to be authoritative sources of factual information. Careful consideration is given so that the publications produced by the Department do not substantially duplicate material that has already been published. At times, however, in order to appeal to different audiences, the Department might undertake to present some publications in a more appropriate format for such a purpose. This, for example, is the case with a number of major documents, such as the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, which, immediately following its release as an official document, is traditionally produced in book format by the Department in the official languages and, through the network of United Nations information centres, in other languages as well.

6. The review of these publications and their mandates is normally undertaken in the context of the preparation of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget. In addition, the Department carries out on a continual basis a review of all proposals for publications. In that process, careful attention is paid to the extent to which the information to be provided by such publications might already be available in publications produced elsewhere, both inside and outside the United Nations system.

7. In view of the evolving mandate of the United Nations in the field of peace-keeping and peacemaking, the availability of print material for public information is a crucial aspect of the promotion of world-wide understanding and support. As the Secretary-General stated in his report on the work of the Organization: 3/

> "In the atmosphere of heightened tension in conflict areas, public information activities play a vital role in facilitating the mission's work by disseminating timely and objective information, and counteracting

propaganda and misinformation. Effective public information activities can also be instrumental in generating and sustaining the support of the international community for the success of the missions. In the absence of information from the United Nations there may be misunderstandings of the United Nations mandate, which can give rise to unwarranted criticism of the Organization's activities."

8. With this in mind, and in response to the unprecedented upsurge in media and public interest in this area of the work of the Organization, during 1993 the Department issued 21 publications devoted exclusively to peace-keeping and other political missions. All of these publications are unique in that no other office of the United Nations system produces information material of this nature. In the preparation, design, production and distribution of these publications, the Department cooperated closely with the Department for Peace-keeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and other substantive offices concerned. In order to maximize their timeliness and usefulness, almost all of these publications are first issued in a desk-top publishing format, followed by internal printing. In this manner, the cost of production is kept to a minimum. The desktop publishing format is sent by electronic or other means to nearly 1,000 recipients, including media, non-governmental organizations and various field offices, in English, French and Spanish, as warranted.

9. The Department continues to issue publications related to the preparation and follow up to major United Nations conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1994), the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (1994), the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). It should be noted that all publications, including press kits, newsletters, backgrounders, fact sheets, posters, feature articles and booklets, are planned, produced and distributed in cooperation with the relevant substantive departments and other agencies or programmes of the United Nations system. In many instances, the information programmes developed for these events are considered by the Joint United Nations Information Committee with a view to developing joint information activities related to the events in question.

10. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 47/128 of 18 December 1992, entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights", the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for information materials on human rights to be tailored to regional and national requirements and circumstances with specific target audiences in mind. In paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Assembly reiterated that the Department of Public Information had primary responsibility for public information activities of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. With this in mind, during 1993, the Department produced and distributed a considerable number of publications on human rights in general, as well as on other related issues, including indigenous people, in particular in the context of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993), as well as publications on women and on issues pertaining to the

International Year of the Family (1994). In response to the demands by various audiences, several earlier releases were reprinted.

11. The results of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights were published in book format. Although the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action 4/ were available as official documents, the Department took this decision in order to facilitate access to the documents by media organizations, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. The objective of better reaching target audiences also prompted the Department to issue as publications basic human rights texts in the official languages and, through the network of United Nations information centres, in other languages. These publications included the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Bill of Human Rights and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

12. In paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992, the General Assembly requested the Department of Public Information to continue dissemination of information in support of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and for the tremendous efforts of the African countries aimed at recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa. In addition to the Department's quarterly publication Africa Recovery, the principal means of fulfilling this mandate through print materials has been the continued release of specialized press kits, briefing papers, feature articles and pamphlets. In 1993, these materials focused on a variety of priority issues, such as debt, food security and major involvements of the Organization in the region. The determination of subjects to be covered by these products was the result of proposals and consultations with the Inter-agency Task Force on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development in Africa in the 1990s. None of the publications by the Department duplicated other material produced within the United Nations system.

13. Great attention has been given to the cost-effective production of these publications within the constraints of quality, accuracy and timeliness to the targeted audiences, including media organizations, government officials, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and the business community. Printing is carried out externally for reasons of quality and timeliness, but the recent adoption of a desk-top publishing system has enabled the Department better to meet the needs, while ensuring efficient cost management.

14. Publications relating to the question of Palestine, to activities against apartheid and to decolonization continue to be mandated by respective resolutions of the General Assembly, the latest of which were resolutions 48/44 B and 48/53 of 10 December 1993 and 48/158 of 20 December 1993. The publications released in accordance with these mandates include books, feature articles, backgrounders and posters. They do not duplicate other publications produced within the United Nations system or outside of it, as they originate from unique activities of the Department, such as encounters, seminars or fact-finding missions, or are prompted by other specific United Nations activities.

15. The publications of the Department of Public Information are printed either internally or externally, depending on various considerations, such as

timeliness, quality and complexity of design, availability of internal printing capacities, and so on. The Department works in close cooperation with the substantive offices concerned, including secretariats of respective intergovernmental bodies, in the development of information materials on the question of Palestine, against apartheid and on decolonization aimed at government officials, media organizations, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions.

16. In order to reach the targeted audiences, the Department has developed mailing lists maintained at Headquarters and by the United Nations information centres and services. These lists are regularly updated. Owing to budgetary constraints, the Department has been experiencing difficulties in its efforts to increase substantially the print runs of the publications, but at the same time it has taken steps to make its products available through other means, including primarily the international information exchange networks. A considerable number of the publications referred to in the present report are already distributed through such networks, including APC, TogetherNet, Agora and GemNet, and are available to InterNet users.

17. The Department intends to continue to review on an ongoing basis the need for its publications among specific audiences and to make every effort to insure their cost-effective production and distribution.

Notes

1/ A/AC.198/1993/5.

2/ Report of the Secretary-General on publications policy of the United Nations (A/AC.198/1993/4).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/48/1), para. 297.

4/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

Annex

Department of Public Information

Published material (non-recurrent) during 1993

	DPI No.	TITLE	TYPE	LANGUAGE	MONTH OF RELEASE
1	926/Rev.1	Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	Booklet	English-10,000 French-5,000 Russian-5,000 Spanish-5,000	October October October October
2	995/Rev.1	Ending Discrimination against Women	Brochure	English-10,000 French-7,000 Spanish-5,000 Arabic-5,000	October October October October
3	1015/Rev.1	The United Nations and Drug Abuse Control	Booklet	English-10,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
4	1192	Life of the Palestinians under Israeli Occupation	Book	Arabic-2,000 German-1,000	June-UNIC Cairo February-UNIS Vienna
5	1239/Rev.2	UN Focus: United Nations Special Commission	Booklet	English-2,500 (+ 1,500 desktop)	May
6	1247	Agenda for Peace: Report of the Secrecary-General on Peace-keeping and Peacemaking	Booklet	Amharic Swahili Turkish Nepali Urdu	
7	1248	Promoting the Rights of Indigenous People	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-4,000 Spanish-6,000	May May May
8	1249/Rev.1	International Year for the World's Indigenous People	Brochure	English-30,000 French-10,000 Spanish-15,000 Japanese-2,000	May May May May
9	1264	United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons In Brief	Booklet	French-3,000	March
10	1277	International Year for the World's Indigenous People	Logo sheets	English-10,000 French-10,000 Spanish-10,000	April April April
11	1279/Rev.1	World Conference on Human Rights	Press kit	English-7,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000 Dutch Swedish German Portuguese Romanian Ewe and Kabye	April April April UNIS Vienna UNIC Lisbon UNIC Bucharest UNIC Lomé
12	1281	UN Focus: Recent Developments on the Issue of Apartheid in South Africa	Backgrounder	Spanish German Greek	February-UNIC Madrid March-UNIS Vienna March-UNIC Athens
13	1283	Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-4,000 Spanish-6,000	May May May

	DPI No.	TITLE	TYPE	LANGUAGE	MONTH OF RELEASE
14	1284	The Girl Child	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
15	1290	United Nations Mechanisms to Protect Human Rights	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
16	1291	Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
17	1292	Eliminating Torture	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
18	1293	Indigenous People and Self-Rule	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-4,000 Spanish-6,000	June June June
19	1294	Indigenous People, Environment and Development	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-4,000 Spanish-6,000	June June June
20	1295	Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous People	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-4,000 Spanish-6,000	June June June
21	1296	Facts about Indigenous Peoples	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-4,000 Spanish-6,000	June June June
22	1298	Press Summary of Agenda 21	Booklet	English-2,000 French-2,000 Spanish-2,000	June June June
23	1302 1302/Rev.1	Notes for Speakers on Issue of Human Rights	Book	English-10,000 French-5,000 Spanish-5,000 Japanese	September October November
24	1306/Rev.1	United Nations Peace-keeping Operations	Booklet	English-3,000 (+ 3,000 desktop)	March
25	1306/Rev.2	United Nations Peace-keeping Operations	Booklet	English-4,500	December
26	1311	UN Focus: At the UN - Women NGOs	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
27	1312/Rev.1	The United Nations and the Situation in the Former Yugoslavia	Booklet	English-5,000 (+ 2,000 desktop)	June
28	1315	50th Anniversary of the United Nations	Poster	English-15,000 French-7,000 Spanish-7,000	June June June
29	1319	Building for Peace in the Middle East	Book	English-10,800 French-2,500	March March
30	1321	The United Nations and the Situation in Somalia	Booklet	Greek	February-UNIC Athens

	DPI No.	TITLE	TYPE	LANGUAGE	MONTH OF RELEASE
31	1321/Rev.1	The United Nations and the Situation in Somalia	Booklet	English-4,000 (+ 2,000 desktop)	June
32	1326	UN Focus: United Nations Operation in Mozambique	Backgrounder	English-5,000 (+ 5,000 desktop) French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	February February February
33	1328	United Nations Social Agenda No. 7	Brochure	English-10,000 French-5,000 Spanish-5,000	April April April
34	1331	UN Focus: Women and Literacy	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	September September September
35	1332	UN Focus: Women of violence	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	December December December
36	1333	UN Focus: Recent Developments on the Issue of Apartheid in South Africa II	Backgrounder	English-3,000 French-2,000	April April
37	1334	United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER)	Brochure	English-3,000 Arabic-2,000 Tigrigna-3,000	March March March
38	1337	United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER)	Poster	English-1,000 Arabic-1,500 Tigrigna-3,000	February February February
39	1338	United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER)	Sticker	English-500 Arabic-1,000 Tigrigna-2,500	March March March
40	1339	United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER)	T-shirt	English-500	February
41	1340	International Year for the World's Indigenous People	Press kit	English-5,000 French-2,000 Spanish-3,000 Japanese-2,000	May May May May
42	1341	United Nations Achievements in the Field of Decolonization and the Task Ahead	Booklet	English-3,000 French-2,000 Spanish-2,000	April April April
43	1342	UN Focus: Women and Public Life	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	December December December
44	1343	UN Focus: Women and Poverty	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	December December December
45	1352	UN Focus: Cambodia (UNTAC)	Backgrounder	English-5,000 (+ 2,000 desktop) French-2,500	March March

	DPI No.	TITLE	TYPE	LANGUAGE	MONTH OF RELEASE
46	1355	World Conference on Human Rights (films, videos, reproductions)	Advertisement	English-5,000 French-2,000 Spanish-2,000 German-2,000	April April April April
47	1356	Families Who Flee	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November
48	1357	Changing Families	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November
49	1358	Freedom from Hunger - FAO	Backgrounder	English-7,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
50	1359	UN Focus: New concepts for development in Africa	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000	March March
51	1362	Development, Democracy and Human Rights	Backgrounder	English-7,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	April April April
52	1377	Population Trends and Family	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November
53	1387/Rev.1	Women's Fact Sheet	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	August August August
54	1388	World Economic Survey (summary)	Backgrounder	English-5,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	June June June
55	1389	UN Focus: Cambodia Election Results	Backgrounder	English-5,000 (+ 2,000 desktop)	July
56	1391	UN Focus: United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa	Backgrounder	English-5,000	August
57	1399	United Nations Peace-keeping	Booklet	English-35,000 French-15,000 Spanish-15,000	August October October
58	1400	UN Focus: Uganda/Rwanda	Backgrounder	English-3,500 (+ 2,000 desktop) French-2,000	September September
59	1401	UN Focus: Georgia	Backgrounder	English-3,500 (+ 2,000 desktop) French-2,000	September November
60	1402	UN Focus: Haiti	Backgrounder	English-3,000 (+ 2,000 desktop) French-2,500 Spanish-2,000	September September September
61	1407	Human Rights and the Family	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November

	DPI No.	TITLE	TYPE	LANGUAGE	MONTH OF RELEASE
62	1409	United Nations Peace-keeping: Answers at your Finger-tips	Backgrounder	English-10,000 French-5,000 Spanish-5,000	December December December
63	1411	Indigenous People (exhibit brochure)	Booklet	English-10,000	October
64	1413	End of Colonialization by the Year 2000	Poster	English-10,000 French-5,000 Spanish-5,000	December December December
65	1417	Families at Risk	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November
66	1418	Family's Role in Socializing Youth	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November
67	1419	International Year of the Family and the United Nations System	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	November November November
68	1424	Fourth World Conference on Women	Backgrounder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	December December December
69	1426	Chemical Weapons Convention: Questions and Answers	Brochure	English-12,000	October
70	1430	Jerusalem - Visions of reconciliation	Book	English-5,500	December
71	1432	Press Kit for International Year of the Family	Folder	English-8,000 French-3,000 Spanish-3,000	December December December
72	1449	Special General Assembly Meeting on Drug Abuse Control	Backgrounder	English-400 French-200 Spanish-200	October October October
73	PS/DPI/15/ Rev.3	United Nations Peace-keeping: Facts and Figures	Booklet	English-3,000 (desktop)	January
74	PS/DPI/15/ Rev.4	United Nations Peace-keeping: Facts and Figures	Booklet	English-3,000 (desktop)	May
75	PS/DPI/15/ Rev.5	United Nations Peace-keeping: Facts and Figures	Booklet	English-3,000 (desktop)	October
76		The United Nations Role in Drug Abuse Control	Public service announcement	English	December
77		Africa Recovery, Briefing Paper No. 7, "Somalia - Restore Hope"	Pamphlet	English-12,000 French-4,000	January January
78		Africa Recovery, Briefing Paper No. 8, "Mozambique - Out of the reach of war"	Pamphlet	English-12,000 French-4,000	May May
79		Africa Recovery, Briefing Paper No. 9, "Famine defeated: Southern Africa. UN wins battle against drought"	Pamphlet	English-10,000 French-2,700	August August

	DPI No.	TITLE	TYPE	LANGUAGE	MONTH OF RELEASE
80		Africa Recovery, Briefing Note, UN battle to bring relief to war-torn Angola	Backgrounder	English-1,000	December
81		Africa Recovery, Briefing Note, Mobilizing support for Africa (update on the New Agenda for Africa)	Backgrounder	English-11,000 French-3,000	December December
82		African Debt Crisis: A continuing impediment to development	Backgrounder	English-1,000	December
83		Teaching guide about Peace-keeping and Peace-making	Booklet	English-10,000 French-5,000 Spanish-5,000	December December December

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